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CALLS & OPPORTUNITIES



Civil Society Week 2023

For the second year in a row the CSW returns in Albania.

With a series of events held by civil society organisations across the country, between 29 May-3 June 2023, **Civil Society Week 2023** will provide opportunities for networking and inter-institutional dialogue on important issues for the sector and beyond.

Civil Society Week (CSW) is a national annual thematic activity, organized by the National Resource Centre for Civil Society, Partners Albania for Change and Development that includes a series of events and dedicated space to the work and promotion of the activity of civil society organizations and activists across the country.

This year's theme is **"Skills for all: to learn, work and engage"** following the European Commission's decision to make SKILLS, an overarching theme for the European Year 2023. We invite all organisations, networks of organisations, and civil society activists to participate in this event and make Civil Society Week a part of their activities all over the country.

For more, read here the [Information Brochure](#) of the Week, as well as the [Application Form](#)!

The application deadline is May 2, 2023!

For more on last year's event, find [here](#) the Summary of Civil Society Week 2022!



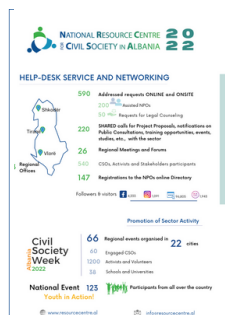
National Resource Centre for Civil Society, throughout 2022!

We are pleased to share with you a summary of the results of the work of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society throughout 2022.

This year has brought novelties in programs and activities provided to the sector, creating a more diverse portfolio of services in response to sector's needs.

Throughout 2023, we will continue providing our services through our central office in *Tirana* as well as two regional offices in *Shkodër* and *Vlorë*.

To become part of our programs, email us at info@resourcecentre.al

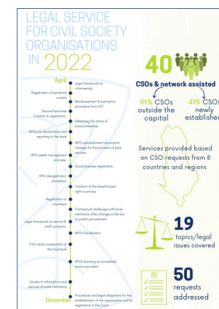


Legal Service for NPOs #2022 in figures!

Introduced last year by Partners Albania for Change and Development as part of the help-desk services of the National Resource Centre for Civil Society, the **Legal Service** for civil society organisations, networks, and activists provides Legal Information and Education for NPOs and free Legal Service on the establishment, operation, legal and fiscal compliance of NPOs.

Read [here](#) an overview of the Legal Service during 2022!

We invite all civil society organisations and activists interested in this service to contact at info@resourcecentre.al



ON VOLUNTEERISM AND ITS DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA

Following the creation of a joint working group with representatives from the government and civil society organisations, part of the Group for the Development of Volunteerism in Albania, in several meetings of CSOs under the facilitation of the Resource Centre, were discussed the main problematic issues of the law as a whole and article by article.

CSOs and legal experts prepared and discussed a draft with concrete recommendations for legal changes. By April 2023, the recommendations will circulate to the working group, which includes representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Minister of State for Youth and Children, and the National Agency for Employment and Skills.



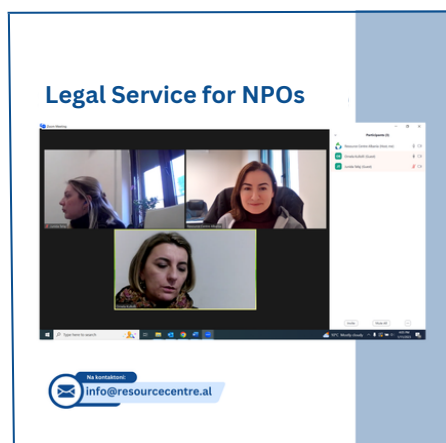
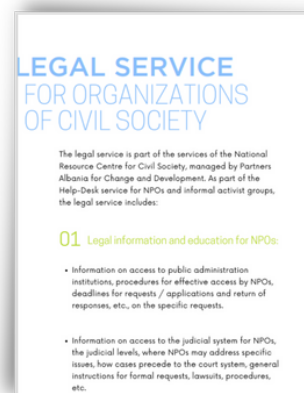
HELP DESK

LEGAL SERVICE

The National Resource Centre continues to provide legal services to NPOs and civil society activists. The provision of paid services in accordance with the legal framework and their exemption from VAT, the procedures for establishing social enterprises, the election and renewal of decision-making bodies in accordance with the new legislation for the registration of NPOs, as well as other aspects of decision-making processes within the organisation, have been the focus of legal service during this period.

Also, a number of newly established organisations have been assisted on the steps and legal procedures of registration with competent bodies according to the legislation for NPOs.

For more information on the legal service and how to benefit from it, read [here](#).



ACTIVITIES FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN ALBANIA



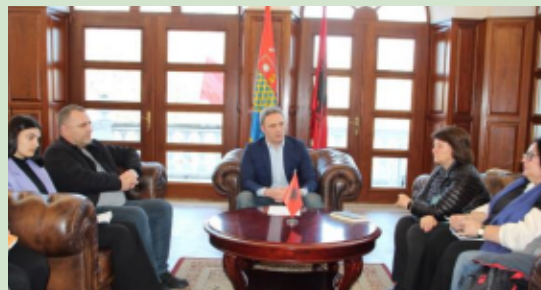
Meeting with the CSOs of **Vlora** Municipality on the importance of networking and advocacy campaigns to increase the influence of the sector in local decision-making.



Several information sessions with young people from secondary schools and the University of **Vlora** on the need for active involvement of young people in democratic processes, advocacy and volunteering and Erasmus programs.



The coordinator of the **Vlora** Regional Office was part of a meeting, where she held a presentation on the achievements and challenges of the regional office in organising advocacy campaigns with a focus on environmental protection.



Participation in CSOs meetings in **Shkodra** with representatives from Shkodër Municipality to increase the quality of dialogue between the two parties. For about a year, the organisations of the Shkodra Municipality have been engaged in a dialogue process with the local government, to sign a cooperation agreement finalized in the last months.



Presentation of the National Resource Centre's 2023 activities with representatives of informal groups and civil society organisations.



Meetings to promote civic participation and campaigning for youth-friendly services in that region with young people from Velipoja administrative unit.

CODE OF STANDARDS FOR NPO IN ALBANIA

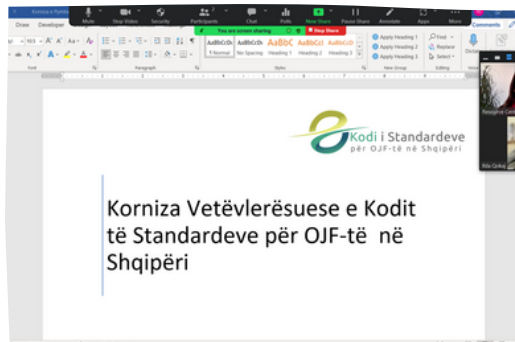
is a practice that is undertaken with the free will of NPOs which aims to increase the effectiveness of the work of non-profit organisations and the trust of supporters, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, through the implementation of practices of good governance in the sector as well as increasing transparency and accountability.

The National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania holds the role of Code **Secretariat**.

Currently, the Code has 22 member organizations, and the membership process is open at any time. We invite organizations to send the expression of interest and the necessary documentation to the **Standards4npo.al** platform.



The Resource centre, in the capacity of the Secretariat of the Code of Standards for NPOs, has continued during this period the promotion of the Code of Standards as a mechanism that enables organisations to increase their activity standards and sustainability. At the same time, information and assistance were provided to all organisations interested in joining the Code.



ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT MECHANISM

We also encourage CSOs to use the Standards4NPOs.AL online self-assessment mechanism designed to help them assess in a qualitative (automatically written suggestions) and quantitative (scoring system) their governance standards; administrative and financial procedures; human resources (hiring/firing/promotion) policies; accountability towards beneficiaries/members; financing, fundraising, and resource management; responsible advocacy and partnership building, among many others.



The Self-Assessment Mechanism is available on the web platform, as well as the mobile application for **IOS** and **Android**.

For any questions related to the self-assessment process, contact the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania at +355 4 2254881, or info@resourcecentre.al

NPO ACADEMY



Since February 2023 restarted the annual program of the NPOs Academy

The NPO Academy, in its 9th year of organisation, is a consolidated program, one of the most sought after in the sector as it is valued by NPOs as one of the only programs that support the formation of leaders and staff of organisations in all aspects of organisational development and management and beyond. For more information, find [here](#) the program.

Following an open call for expressions of interest, 26 representatives of CSOs will attend this year's Academy. The Academy's program includes 11 lectures by local and international lecturers, as well as discussions with guest experts, mentoring sessions for participants and their organisations throughout the year, participation in study visits to businesses and institutions, and participation in various events and networking activities of the Resource Centre and beyond.

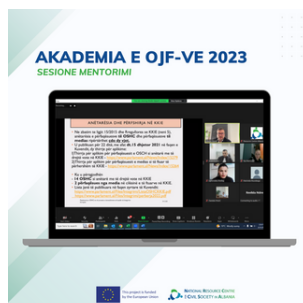
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The first two lectures on the "Legal Framework for NPOs in Albania" and "EU integration process and CSOs role" were organized respectively in the months of February and March.

Av. Ardjana Shehi, an expert with more than 25 years of professional work experience in the non-profit sector's legal field, notably with regard to the legal framework governing the NPO tax regime, directed the first lecture. Gledis Gjipali, Executive Director of the European Movement Albania (EMA), researcher and expert on issues related to the EU accession process, member of the work teams for the drafting of strategic documents such as the National Plan for the Approximation of Legislation, the National Plan for the implementation of the SAA, etc., as well as a member of Albania - EU working group, led the second lecture.

ASSISTANCE AND MENTORING FOR ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS

Following the first lectures were organized also mentoring sessions with the participants of the NPO Academy 2023. During the Mentoring Sessions on the legal framework, some of the main issues addressed were: legislation related to the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, the registration of beneficial owners, the VAT reimbursement procedure, as well as the difficulties encountered by organisations during its implementation. Mentoring sessions on **"EU integration process and CSOs role"** were focused on the participation of CSOs in the consultation process within the framework of European Integration; the right to information and public consultation in Albania; as well as membership and involvement in the National Council of European Integration.



GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

As part of Capacity Building programs provided by NRC, in March was organized a training program for civil society organisations, on **"Grants management and monitoring"**.

The program, designed on 4 main modules, aims to improve the capabilities of organisations that already manage sub-granting schemes (financial support for other CSOs) or who plan to do so in the future.

15 representatives of CSOs, beneficiaries of this program, increased their knowledge and skills in drafting the call for proposals, evaluation and contracting procedure; grant management procedure; monitoring and evaluation, as well as formal closure and audit.

For all those interested, we will soon develop a second training program on this topic, so we invite you to write to us at info@resourcecentre.al



NRC ACTIVITIES

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ON VOLUNTARISM AND PARTICIPATION OF CSOS IN EU PROGRAMS

Following the training and mentoring programs during 2022 for increasing CSOs capacities on EU programs on volunteering, **14 CSOs** interested in becoming part of these programs at the European level have submitted applications to be accredited with the **Quality Label**.

Accreditation will be a very good opportunity for all organisations to be involved in the European Volunteering Programs in the future.



EU AQUIS, CSO PARTICIPATION, AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY'S EU INTEGRATION PROCESS

EU aquis, the engagement, and the role of CSOs in the country's EU integration process is a new program provided by the National Resource Centre, dedicated to increasing the organisations capacities.

A regional workshop with approximately 19 CSO representatives was held in Shkodra on February 9. The workshop focused on the role that civil society actors should play in the negotiation process in order to achieve more effective results, the processes in which CSOs could get involved, as well as opportunities for funding and the main funding programs of the European Union for the assistance of civil society.



STATEMENT

OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FOR THE 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

For the 2023 local elections, **44 civil society organisations** have signed a declaration. The declaration is addressed to voters in all 61 municipalities around the nation as well as electoral subjects taking part in the local elections on May 14.

For more read the Declaration [here!](#)



Announcement from the Electronic Register for Public Notification and Consultation

The Electronic Register for Public Announcements and Consultations will be integrated into the infrastructure of the e-Albania portal!

The announcement was made public on the website konsultimi.gov.al. According to it the integration of the Registry in e-Albania aims to increase the exposure and access of citizens to this system, using the same database of users, without the need for separate registration.

For more read the full announcement [here!](#)



CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS' PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE EU NEGOTIATION PROCESS

The Program "Support to the EU Integration Process of Albania" (SEI) organised a Round Table in February with high representatives from the Government and civil society organisations at the conclusion of the bilateral meetings for Group 1 (Cluster 1) for the main non-state actors of the European Integration Partnership Platform (EIPP).

The purpose of the round table was to provide information on the bilateral meeting held in Brussels for Group Chapter 1 – Basics (Functioning of Democratic Institutions, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24).

As part of the meeting, civil society organisations and experts gave their opinions on the issues presented in Brussels by the Albanian delegation. Invited to the meeting, representatives of Partners Albania and the National Resource centre emphasized the importance of the timely and inherent involvement of civil society organisations in all future stages of the process.

Senior members of the European Union delegation in Albania also emphasized the importance of civil society actors' participation and engagement in the negotiation process.

For more



TERRORIST FINANCING RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOR THE NPO SECTOR IN ALBANIA

Partners Albania for Change and Development has published the report "TERRORIST FINANCING RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOR THE NPO SECTOR IN ALBANIA".

Albania is the second country in the Western Balkans region to have prepared this report based on a standard risk assessment methodology developed by Greenacre Group, in order to help countries understand the risks of TF for the NPO sector, assess how effectively they are addressing these risks, and be able to clearly demonstrate how this understanding has been achieved.



➔ [READ THE FULL REPORT](#)



**ALBANIA'S YEARS OF CIVIL SOCIETY:
THE EFFORT CONTINUES!**



➔ [See the spot](#)

Civil society organisations have a key role in promoting social justice, democracy, and sustainable development in society.

Assessing the importance of this contribution being recognised by all actors and the general public, Partners Albania prepared and widely promoted in the national media a spot that echoes the significant efforts and achievements of civil society in Albania for more than 30 years.

THE

VJOSA

RIVER HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED A "NATIONAL PARK"

The natural ecosystem of the Vjosa River in Albania, with DECISION No. 155, dated 13.3.2023 of the Council of Ministers of Albania, has been declared a "National Park". For more, find the Decision [here](#).

This is the culmination of almost ten years of efforts undertaken by civil society organisations, activists, citizens and actors, and other stakeholders.



CIVIL SOCIETY'S WINNING CANDIDATES are announced in the National Council for Civil Society

During these months, 8 vacancies have been announced in the **National Council for Civil Society** in the following areas:

- A. Democratization, rule of law, human rights, and EU integration (respectively with 2 vacancies);
- B. Territorial-environmental economic development (respectively with 2 vacancies);
- C. Improvement of well-being, social services, health protection, and quality of life (4 vacancies).

At the end of the online voting process, the winning candidates from Civil Society in the National Council of Civil Society were announced as follows:

- Ergys Gezka, Gentian Serjani in the Field "Democratization, rule of law, human rights and EU integration;
- Ermelinda Mahmutaj, Mirela Koci in the field "Territorial-environmental economic development
- Fabiola Laco Egro, Eglantina Bardhi, Indrit Seferi, Nancy Dragoti in the Field "Improving well-being, social services, health protection and quality of life".



PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTE

MEETING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS AND
REPRESENTATIVES OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



The Parliamentary Institute (IP) in the Parliament of Albania organised on March 17 a round table with representatives of civil society organisations and public and private universities in the country. During the meeting, the "Annual Report of IP Activity for 2022" as well as the "Strategic Development Plan of IP 2023-2025" were presented.



IP is a service of the administration of the Assembly which supports MPs and citizens in order to improve parliamentary democracy through the provision of research products, information, and programs on civic education.

For more read [here](#).

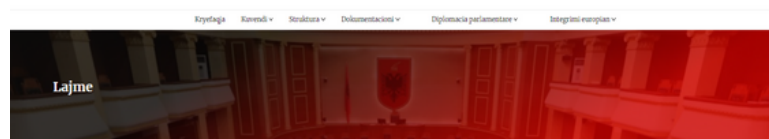


REGISTRATION NOTICE ON THE ASSEMBLY'S CONSULTATION PLATFORM

The Assembly of the Republic of Albania through an announcement invites civil society organisations and interested actors and individuals to register in the Consultation Platform.

The platform offers the possibility of online recognition and consultation of all draft laws that the parliamentary committees publish.

For more information on this announcement click [here](#).



Postuar më 07/02/2023

Njoftim për regjistrim në Platformën e konsultimit!

Njoftim për regjistrim në Platformën e konsultimit!

Kuvendi i Republikës së Shqipërisë e shpreh shumëllojshmëri të rëndësishme forcimin e bashkëpunimit me publikun, shoqëritë civile, individët dhe lobistët. Në kuadër të transparencës, Kuvendi ju fton të bëheni pjesë e Platformës së konsultimit publik.

Kjo platformë ofron mundësinë e njohjes dhe konsultimit on-line të të gjitha projektligjeve që komisionet parlamentare publikojnë, në link-un: <https://konsultimi.parlament.al/>

Platforma e konsultimit, pas regjistrimit tuaj, mundëson njoftimin automatik për çdo projektligj i cili publikohet për konsultim on-line.

Për çdo sqarim kontaktoni: ejona.manjani@parlament.al

Ju falënderim për bashkëpunimin tuaj!

ADVOCACY MEETINGS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY AND EUROPEAN FUNCTIONARIES

Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) held a series of advocacy meetings in Brussels in March with members of the European Parliament (EP) and EU Neighborhood and Enlargement officials.

Under the slogan **"Back to the roots of Democracy - Strengthening civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey"**, the Network's member organisations held an advocacy event in the EP, where they emphasized the special role of civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey in the enlargement process, as and discussed how EU membership can contribute to the strengthening of civil society in the region.

The network also participated and contributed to the Civil Society Days 2023 organised by the EESC - European Economic and Social Committee with the main theme "Civil society organisations: a pillar of Democracy and a key player to overcome current challenges". During the meetings, the member organisations of the Network shared the main findings from the Monitoring Matrix of the Enabling Environment for Civil Society at the regional and local level, and the trends related to the reduction of civic space in the region.

For more information read [here](#) and [here](#).



CLOSING THE GAPS: HOW DATA ACCELERATES PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY

In March, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) launched its first Guide on the use of data systems on violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey under the European Union funded Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

Despite the experiences and practices in data collection in the Western Balkans and Turkey, it remains necessary to improve data collection methodologies in order to match international standards.

According to the new EIGE Guide, five concrete steps for building data systems would be:

- Mapping data producers and users;
- Establishing coordination and a governance mechanism;
- Establishing standards for data collection: entry, validation, and analysis;
- Establishing and implementing training;
- Reporting statistics.

For more on the news, read [here](#).
Find the full release [here](#).

"VOLUNTEERING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKIYE AGENDA FOR ACTION" TACSO 3

The event was held in Tirana on March 28-29 and welcomed 34 CSO representatives from 6 Western Balkan countries and Turkey. As part of it, representatives of CSOs shared their experiences in working with volunteers, discussed organisational challenges and the legal and regulatory environment in their countries, as well as addressing challenges related to the recognition, support, and sustainability of volunteering in the region.

As part of the event panel, Ariola Agolli, Manager of the National Resource Centre, Partners Albania presented an overview of the legal framework for volunteering in the countries of the Western Balkans, the issues and challenges in implementation, following specifically in the case of Albania and the advocacy initiative already facilitated for two years by the Resource centre, in cooperation with a group of organisations for the change and improvement of the legal framework in Albania. "Agenda for Action" was the summary prepared at the end of the event, which includes recommendations on improving policies, strategies and the legal framework; support from the donor community, the EU, governments in the region, and other agencies; as well as the support that CSOs themselves can provide in the development of volunteerism.



"EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATION PROCESS:

LEARNING EXCHANGE BETWEEN CSOS FROM MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA, WITH CSOS FROM ALBANIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA" TACSO 3



Another People to People regional meeting was held in Tirana, on March 30-31, 2023 with the theme "EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATION PROCESS".

The meeting served as an opportunity for representatives from civil society organisations and institutions in **4 countries** of the Western Balkans (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) to exchange knowledge and good practices on the engagement of civil society in the negotiation process for EU membership.

Albania and North Macedonia have already started the negotiation process, while Montenegro and Serbia have been following this process for several years. During the meeting, representatives from NPOs and institutions from Serbia and Montenegro shared in dedicated panels their experiences on the progress of the process, State-NO cooperation platforms and the problems encountered. The meeting also served as a networking event, for establishing cooperation between CSOs and institutions from the participating countries and other exchanges in the future on issues related to European integration and the inherent involvement of civil society in this process.

REGIONAL FORUM

ON THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS #GAWB

On March 30, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) organised in Belgrade, the Regional Forum on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, bringing together representatives of civil society organisations, the donor community, and international organisations, as well as government representatives from the region in a discussion on the Agenda, #GAWB.

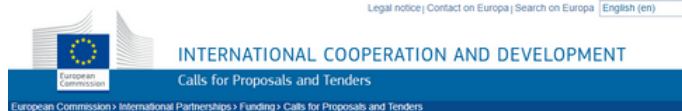
The event created opportunities to discuss important environmental issues, emphasizing that the implementation of the Agenda is in the hands of all actors and the contribution and reflections of CSOs are essential for the way forward.





**4th CfP under the IPA CBC
Programme Montenegro-
Albania 2014-2020**

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS



Calls for Proposals and Tenders

Please note that the domain name 'EuropeAid' has been replaced by [International Partnerships](#). For Calls for Tenders, published after 1st of August 2020, please refer to the Funding and Tenders Portal : [Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal \(F&T Portal\)](#). Prior Information Notices (PIN) are no longer mandatory but if required they can be found via [TED eNotices](#), by selecting the criteria: "External aid programmes". Please note that for a transition period, all calls for proposals published after March 13th 2023 will also be published in the Funding and Tenders Portal.



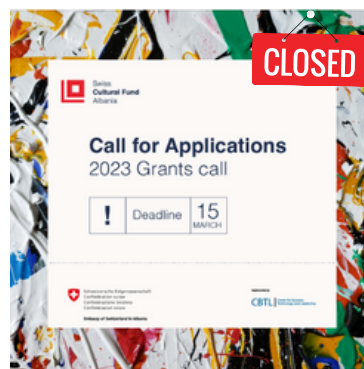
Shpallet Thirrja Nr. 16 për Projekt-Propozime (27 Mars – 27 Prill 2023)



Calls for Proposals and Tenders

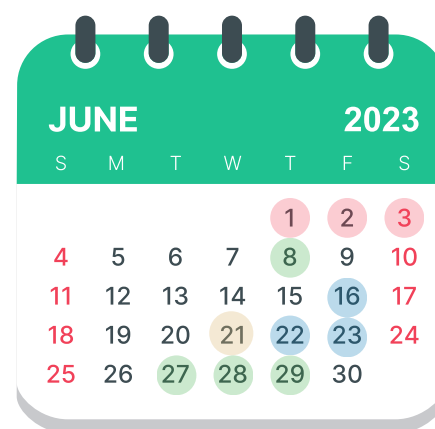
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Strengthening partnerships to advance social services provision and inclusive employment and skills in Albania IPA 2019 Phase II



QUARTERLY CALENDAR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! BE INVOLVED IN OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!



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